



ASPIRE
ACADEMY

Uniform policy

Approved by:

AGC

Date:

Last reviewed on:

May 2022

Next review due by:

May 2024

Contents

1. Aims	2
2. Our school’s legal duties under the Equality Act 2010	2
3. Limiting the cost of school uniform	2
4. Expectations for school uniform	3
5. Expectations for our school community	4
6. Monitoring arrangements	6
7. Links to other policies	6

1. Aims

This policy aims to:

- Set out our approach to requiring a uniform that is of reasonable cost and offers the best value for money for parents and carers;
- Explain how we will avoid discrimination in line with our legal duties under the Equality Act 2010;
- Clarify our expectations for school uniform.

2. Our school’s legal duties under the Equality Act 2010

The [Equality Act 2010](#) prohibits discrimination against an individual based on the protected characteristics, which include sex, race, religion or belief, and gender reassignment.

To avoid discrimination, our school will:

- Avoid listing uniform items based on sex, to give all pupils the opportunity to wear the uniform they feel most comfortable in or that most reflects their self-identified gender
- Make sure that our uniform costs the same for all pupils
- Allow all pupils to have long hair (though we reserve the right to ask for this to be tied back)
- Allow all pupils to style their hair in the way that is appropriate for school yet makes them feel most comfortable
- Allow pupils to request changes to swimwear for religious reasons
- Allow pupils to wear headscarves and other religious or cultural symbols
- Allow for adaptations to our policy on the grounds of equality

3. Limiting the cost of school uniform

- Our school has a duty to make sure that the uniform we require is affordable, in line with statutory guidance from the Department for Education on the cost of school uniform.

- We understand that items with distinctive characteristics (such as branded items, or items that have to have a school logo or a unique fabric/colour/design) cannot be purchased from a wide range of retailers and that requiring many such items limits parents' ability to 'shop around' for a low price.
- We will make sure our uniform:
 - Is available at a reasonable cost
 - Provides the best value for money for parents/ carers
- We will do this by:
 - Carefully considering whether any items with distinctive characteristics are necessary
 - Considering cheaper alternatives to school-branded items
 - Avoiding specific requirements for items pupils could wear on non-school days, such as coats, bags and shoes
 - Keeping the number of optional branded items to a minimum
 - Avoiding different uniform requirements for different year/class/house groups
 - Avoiding different uniform requirements for extra-curricular activities
 - Considering alternative methods for signalling differences in groups for interschool competitions, such as creating posters or labels
 - Making sure that arrangements are in place for parents to acquire second-hand uniform items
 - Avoiding frequent changes to uniform specifications and minimising the financial impact on parents of any changes
 - Consulting with parents and pupils on any proposed significant changes to the uniform policy and carefully considering any complaints about the policy

4. Expectations for school uniform

4.1 Our school's uniform

- promotes a sense of pride in our school
- helps to create a sense of community and belonging towards the school
- identifies the children with the school
- supports our commitment to inclusion
- does not distract or create discomfort
- is practical, smart and designed with health and safety in mind
- Is considered good value for money by all parents
- Includes flexibility based on need

Standard uniform

- Aspire Polo Shirt/t-shirt*
- Aspire Sweatshirt/hoodie*
- Black or grey Trousers or knee length skirt

The school provides one sweatshirt, two t-shirts and the PE kit.

Parents are required to provide trousers and/or knee length skirt, shoes and to replace lost uniform or kit. This can be purchased through the main office. Second hand items are usually available and these can often be provided free of charge.

PE kit (worn to school on PE days)

- Aspire Fleece*
- Aspire t-shirt*
- Sport trousers

Expectations for shoes, bags, hats and coats

- drawstring bag or small rucksack (any colour)
- suitable footwear for school and the activities being undertaken
- waterproof coat or anorak
- sunhat in warmer weather

Swimming kit

- small bag to contain:
- swimming costume/trunks
- towel

Jewellery

- Children should not wear jewellery to school for Health and Safety reasons. If earrings are worn, they should be of the stud type and one only worn in each ear.
- Earrings should be removed or covered with tape on days children will be undertaking PE lessons.

Hairstyles

- Sensible haircuts and hairstyles for school

4.2 Where to purchase it

Uniform is provided by the school and replacement items can be purchased directly from the school

MAIL: enquiries@aspireacademy.org.uk

TEL: 01225 832 212

- The school will provide a set of school uniform when the child starts school
- Additional, second-hand uniform may be available from school and can often be provided free of charge.
- If parents are finding it difficult to afford any school uniform, they are encouraged to contact the school.

5. Expectations for our school community

5.1 Pupils

Pupils are expected to wear the correct uniform at all times (other than specified non-school uniform days) while:

- On the school premises
- Travelling to and from school
- At out-of-school events or on trips that are organised by the school, or where they are representing the school (if required)

Pupils are also expected to contact a member of the Senior Leadership team if they want to request an amendment to the uniform policy in relation to their protected characteristics.

5.2 Parents and carers

Parents and carers are expected to make sure their child has the correct uniform and PE kit, and that every item is:

- Clean
- Clearly labelled with the child's name
- In good condition

Parents are also expected to contact a member of the Senior Leadership Team if they want to request an amendment to the uniform policy in relation to:

- Their child's protected characteristics
- Their child's additional needs
- The cost of the uniform

Parents are expected to lodge any complaints or objections relating to the school uniform in a timely and reasonable manner.

Disputes about the cost of the school uniform will be:

- Resolved locally
- Dealt with in accordance with our school's complaints policy

The school will work closely with parents to arrive at a mutually acceptable outcome.

5.3 Staff

Staff will closely monitor pupils to make sure they are in correct uniform. They will give any pupils and families breaching the uniform policy the opportunity to comply but will follow up with the Principal if the situation doesn't improve.

Ongoing breaches of our uniform policy will be dealt with by the senior leadership team.

In cases where it is suspected that financial hardship has resulted in a pupil not complying with this uniform policy, staff will take a mindful and considerate approach to resolving the situation.

5.4 Governors

The AGC will review this policy and make sure that it:

- Is appropriate for our school's context
- Is implemented fairly across the school
- Takes into account the views of parents and pupils
- Offers a uniform that is appropriate, practical and safe for all pupils

The AGC will also make sure that the school's uniform supplier arrangements give the highest priority to cost and value for money, for example by avoiding single supplier contracts and by re-tendering contracts at least every 5 years.

6. Monitoring arrangements

This policy will be reviewed bi-annually by the headteacher. At every review, it will be approved by the AGC

7. Links to other policies

This policy is linked to our:

- Behaviour policy
- Equality information and objectives statement
- Anti-bullying policy
- Complaints policy